REMARKS

Claims 1-29, 31-38, 40-47 and 49-55 are currently pending in the application. The foregoing separate sheets marked as "Listing of Claims" shows all the claims in the application, with an indication of the current status of each.

The Examiner's indication by omission that the prior §112 ground of rejection has been overcome is acknowledged with appreciation.

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-29, 31-38, 40-47 and 49-55 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2001/00460069 A1 to Jones in view of U.S. Patent No.5,948,058 to Kuboh et al. ("Kuboh"). Jones describes an email server that controls transmissions to the Internet by detecting watermarks in the email message. The Examiner argues that the reading of the watermark corresponds to the display element of the claimed invention. Kudoh describes an email classification system. Exemplar results from application of the classification system are shown in a table, and the Examiner argues that this table supplies what is missing from Jones, i.e. the table of retrieval conditions and corresponding display methods.

However, the table shown in Kudoh has no apparent connection to the table described in the invention. Furthermore, neither Jones nor Kudoh address the problem addressed by the present invention, namely avoiding unnecessary transmission of large image and sound files attached to messages. The invention is a mechanism for overcoming the bandwidth load on the communication system of transmitting large image and sound files (page 2, line 22, to page 3, line 6). In summary, the invention uses a table of images and sounds, the table being downloaded once rather than each time a message is transmitted over the

communication system. The table is keyed to objects (words and marks) which

appear in the message, as that message is transmitted <u>without</u> the image and sound

attachments. If the keys are found in the message, then the corresponding display

(image and sound) is made from the already downloaded table (page 24, line 18, to

page 25, line 8). As a consequence of this mechanism, it is no longer necessary to

burden the communication system with bandwidth consuming image and sound files

attached to each particular message. The originator of the message need only

construct an appropriate table and use appropriate key words in the message.

A few comments should be made about the table. In summary, the table

contains at least one key object, each key object having at least one corresponding

display method as described in the table. The example given in the specification

(Figs. 5 and 8) shows several keys and two display methods (an image and a sound)

for each. The table shown in Kudoh has a completely different functionality, and fails

to describe or suggest the table claimed in the invention. The table described and

claimed in the invention is a table of 1) retrieval conditions and 2) corresponding

display methods, wherein the corresponding display is implemented when the

retrieval condition is detected in the message.

By contrast, the table in Kudoh (i.e. Fig. 32) has no comparable functionality.

Instead of listing retrieval conditions, the table in Kudoh lists a) the date, sender and

title of the message and b) a category indication. For the purposes of Kudoh, the table

<u>is</u> the display – **no display method is listed in the table**. The category (e.g., col. 8,

lines 33-34) in the Kudoh table is determined by application of classification rules

stored elsewhere (e.g., col. 8, lines 28-29). The "retrieval conditions" cited by the

Examiner are stored in a "tray information storage unit" (col. 18, line 57). Thus, it is

clear that **no retrieval condition is listed in the table**; only the **category** resulting from application of the classification rules is stored in the table.

In summary, the table in Kudoh has nothing whatever to do with the present invention, and is neither descriptive nor suggestive of the table claimed in the invention.

Without the relevant table functionality, the disclosure in Jones is also unavailing to provide a suggestion that would make the claimed invention obvious. Jones provides for the detection of watermarks in messages, and uses the detected watermark to control further transmission of the message, in order to guard against unauthorized dissemination of confidential information. In contrast the present invention, the retrieval condition is not listed in a table along with a display method. The argument provided by the Examiner is, in essence, that the watermark provides **both** a retrieval condition **and** a display – **but this is in the message itself, not in a table; there is no table in Jones**. The functionality of the claimed table requires that the retrieval condition be listed in a **separate** table, and be applied against the content of the message to determine its presence. The disclosure in Jones simply fails to provide or suggest such a table, and therefore could not be combined with Kudoh, even if the Kudoh table were germane to the claimed invention.

In view of the foregoing, it is requested that the application be reconsidered, that claims 1-29, 31-38, 40-47 and 49-55 be allowed, and that the application be passed to issue.

Should the Examiner find the application to be other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at 703-787-9400 (fax: 703-787-7557; email: clyde@wcc-ip.com) to discuss any other changes deemed necessary in a telephonic or personal interview.

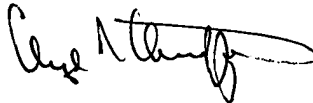PF-2894   **AFTER FINAL: EXPEDITED ACTION**   01450013aa
Amendment dated 02/01/2006   Reply to office action mailed 12/09/2005

        If an extension of time is required for this response to be considered as being

timely filed, a conditional petition is hereby made for such extension of time. Please

charge any deficiencies in fees and credit any overpayment of fees to Attorney's

Deposit Account No. 50-2041.

                        Respectfully submitted,

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